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97-122

BRFT-970129YD

# FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

MM DOCKET No.:

File Nos. BRFT-970129YC

In Re:

GERARD A. TURRO

For Renewal of License for FM Translator Stations W276AQ(FM), Fort Lee, NJ, and W232AL(FM), Pomona, NY

MONTICELLO MOUNTAINTOP BROADCASTING, INC.

Order to Show Cause Why the Construction Project for FM Radio Station WJUX(FM), Monticello, NY, Should not be revoked

ADMISSIONS SESSION

Pages:

1 through 207

Place:

Washington, D.C.

Date:

November 24, 1997

# HERITAGE REPORTING CORPORATION

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# FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554

In Re MM DOCKET No.: 97-122 GERARD A. TURRO File Nos. BRFT-970129YC BRFT-970129YD For Renewal of License for FM Translator Stations W276AQ(FM), Fort Lee, NJ, and W232AL(FM), Pomona, NY MONTICELLO MOUNTAINTOP BROADCASTING, INC. Order to Show Cause Why the Construction Project for FM Radio Station WJUX (FM), Monticello, NY, Should not be revoked

Courtroom 1, Room 201 FCC Building 2000 L Street, N.W. Washington, D.C.

Monday, November 24, 1997

The parties met, pursuant to the notice of the Judge, at 10:24 a.m.

BEFORE: HON. ARTHUR I. STEINBERG Administrative Law Judge

#### APPEARANCES:

#### On behalf of Gerald A. Turro:

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WITNESSES:

VOIR DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS DIRE

(None)

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Hearing Began:10:24 a.m.Hearing Ended:4:15 p.m.Recess Began:12:05 p.m.Recess Ended:1:20 p.m.

#### PROCEEDINGS 1 JUDGE STEINBERG: We are on the record now. This 2 is the formal commence in the hearing in MM Docket No. 97-3 Today is the day that I scheduled for an admissions 4 5 session. Before we went on the record we had a lengthy 6 discussion on scheduling witnesses, and in with us during 7 that discussion was Catherine R. Schmeltzer of Fisher, 8 Wayland, Cooper, Leader & Zaragoza, who represents a witness 9 in this case, Eugene Blabey. 10 11 Basically, what we agreed to is the following order of witnesses, and I will note the approximate time 12 that we have agreed to take their testimony. If it's 13 possible to do it this way, we will. If it's not, then we 14 15 will make amendments as necessary. The first witness will be Mr. Loginow, and he will 16 start at Tuesday, at 10 a.m. Then on Wednesday morning, 17 beginning at 9:30, we will have Mr. Cohen and Mr. La 18 19 Follette. Wednesday afternoon, beginning at about 1:00, we will have Mr. Luna and Mr. Gaghan. It's possible that Mr. 20 Gaghan's testimony will extend over to Thursday or might 21 even start on Thursday. 22 23 After Mr. Gaghan will be Ms. Montana, and she is to be here Thursday -- she is to be here Thursday at the 24

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commensurate of the hearing, and if she has got to wait in

25

- the witness room for awhile, she will. And on Friday
- 2 morning, we will have Mr. Blabey at about 9:30, and the
- Friday afternoon, Mr. Warshaw, at about 1:00.
- Now, there are other witnesses, and either they
- 5 will be worked in or we will consider scheduling for them
- 6 later, and that should complete the first week. And then we
- 7 will worry about -- there are a bunch of witnesses
- 8 remaining, and we will just worry about them some time next
- 9 week.
- 10 There is another preliminary matter which I want
- 11 to talk about now, and it's the joint motion for protective
- order which was filed on November 4th by Mr. Turro and
- 13 Monticello Mountaintop Broadcasting.
- 14 In connection with this, let me note that there
- was an emergency motion for temporary protective order filed
- on November 10th, and as a result of the emergency order for
- 17 protective order, an agreement was reached among the
- parties, which is represented by a couple of November 10,
- 19 1997 letters. So that's -- I didn't rule on the emergency
- 20 motion because everyone was happy with the -- well, with the
- 21 temporary arrangement.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Your Honor?
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Yes?
- MR. ARONOWITZ: That was only a temporary
- arrangement, and I would like to ask a couple of questions.

- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, let me just -- basically,
- what Mr. Turro and Monticello Mountaintop wanted was
- 3 basically that none of the Bureau's witnesses be shown their
- 4 exhibits prior to the witness's testimony; is that correct?
- 5 MR. NAFTALIN: That's correct.
- 6 JUDGE STEINBERG: And the nature of the agreement
- 7 was that the exhibits could be shown to the technical
- 8 engineers.
- 9 MR. NAFTALIN: Yes.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Or the engineering experts; is
- 11 that essentially correct?
- 12 MR. NAFTALIN: Based on discussions, Mr. Turro
- agreed to accommodate the Bureau and provide -- and agree
- 14 that the statements of his two consulting engineers, Mr.
- 15 Hurst and Mr. Hidle, could be provided to the consulting
- engineers of the Bureau and Universal, Mr. Cohen and Mr. La
- 17 Follette.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay. Now, what I've got is the
- 19 joint motion for protective order. Basically the agreement,
- the temporary agreement or the agreement on the emergency
- 21 motion covered us until today so I didn't see any real need
- 22 to do anything on that, and I'll probably just dismiss the
- emergency emotion as moot.
- MR. NAFTALIN: That would be fine.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, now, what do we need to --

- why can't the temporary arrangement be carried forth through
- 2 the hearing?
- 3 MR. ARONOWITZ: Your Honor, we entered into the
- 4 temporary arrangement before the disclosure of Mr. Turro's
- 5 and MMBI's direct case. And in so doing we see, and this
- 6 may become moot at the end of this session. However, there
- 7 is a lot of material in Mr. Turro's direct testimony in
- 8 which he is apparently testifying as some sort of expert.
- 9 And we -- and as long as that has now been disclosed and
- 10 been submitted, it tends to cut across what we originally
- 11 agreed to, in our opinion. And since that we are looking to
- 12 pretty much keep factual type witnesses sequestered as they
- would be in the ordinary course.
- 14 However, in terms of our agreement to let the
- experts see what the experts have to say as a method of
- 16 expediting this matter, we have a lot of Mr. Turro's
- 17 testimony, some of which we are going to try to exclude this
- 18 morning. But nevertheless, some of which comes across as
- 19 expert testimony.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, you're talking about --
- MR. ARONOWITZ: And we would move to show that's
- 22 experts.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, what you are talking about
- is, well, the receiving antenna was in the basement so
- 25 therefore the signal that Mr. Loginow sent out or whatever

- 1 he did didn't get to that receiving antenna; stuff like
- 2 that?
- 3 MR. ARONOWITZ: Sure. I think it's --
- 4 JUDGE STEINBERG: And the scenario that was
- 5 explained by Mr. Luna and Mr. Gaghan was impossible because
- 6 ABCD, and that's technical stuff?
- 7 MR. ARONOWITZ: Correct.
- 8 JUDGE STEINBERG: And you want to be able to show
- 9 that to your technical experts?
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Absolutely.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Mr. Naftalin?
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Should they not be excluded.
- MR. NAFTALIN: ell, Mr. Turro's statement goes to
- 14 his personal knowledge of his operations. And in the normal
- 15 course, if this were a live trial without cases, his direct
- 16 testimony would not have been presented prior to the --
- 17 JUDGE STEINBERG: Right.
- MR. NAFTALIN: -- appearances of Mr. Cohen and Mr.
- 19 La Follette. We agree to be helpful. If the true
- independent experts got to review the true independent
- 21 experts, because I think we had a right to oppose that as
- well, but we decided it would be helpful not to.
- I am just curious why, why Mr. Cohen or Mr. La
- 24 Follette, what would be helpful about Mr. Cohen or Mr. La
- 25 Follette reading Mr. Turro's statement?

- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay. Basically, I don't think
- anybody questions, you know, the qualifications of Mr. Cohen
- 3 and Mr. La Follette.
- 4 MR. NAFTALIN: We don't.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: And basically, it would be very
- 6 helpful to the record to have testimony by them -- you know,
- 7 it's true that they are being presented by the Bureau and
- 8 you've got your own engineers that you might bring on --
- 9 MR. NAFTALIN: Sure.
- 10 JUDGE STEINBERG: -- testifying as to whether or
- 11 not what Mr. Turro claims in his direct case -- he claims
- 12 Mr. Loginow went on the roof and he did this, and, of
- 13 course, I don't understand it. I don't remember right now
- 14 all the technical aspects of it, but he sent out a signal,
- and because of what he heard he concluded that the signal
- 16 that was being rebroadcast over the translator could not
- 17 have gone over the air; it had to go through telephone lines
- 18 or something.
- 19 Am I right about that? Did I -- I mean, the gist
- of it? That this was what Mr. Loginow was prepared to say?
- 21 MR. NAFTALIN: Is this the May -- are we talking
- 22 about the May 15th or --
- JUDGE STEINBERG: I don't know the dates --
- MR. NAFTALIN: Okay.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: -- to be honest with you, but

- 1 Mr. Turro explained -- he's got a technical explanation for
- everything, and the explanation for that was something like
- 3 something was -- something on the roof was vandalized and he
- 4 was using something in the basement.
- 5 MR. NAFTALIN: Right.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: And the signal that Mr. Loginow
- 7 that putting out could not have possibly reached the
- 8 basement, so therefore it was an invalid test. I think it
- 9 would be helpful to get Mr. Cohen and Mr. La Follette's
- opinion on stuff like that, and then you can put on your
- 11 engineer and get his opinion on it.
- 12 MR. NAFTALIN: He's actually -- has taken some
- 13 positions about that.
- I would be willing to agree to let Mr. Cohen and
- Mr. La Follette review Mr. Turro's statement and provide
- 16 assistance, strict on technical matters themselves. I mean,
- 17 if that's -- I think that's consistent with what we agreed
- 18 to before.
- 19 Is that what you're asking?
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Well, one of my problems is --
- 21 well, what we agreed, we agreed, this initial agreement was
- done in a manner that was hopefully going to segregate
- 23 factual stuff from expert testimony stuff. You have Mr.
- 24 Loginow -- you have Mr. Turro saying, you know, if Loginow
- conducted this test and he conducted it properly, he would

- 1 have heard this rather than that. That, to me, is an
- 2 engineering --
- JUDGE STEINBERG: He would have heard a white
- 4 noise versus nothing.
- 5 MR. NAFTALIN: Well, but hang on --
- 6 MR. ARONOWITZ: Well, wait a minute. That is
- 7 expert testimony and, frankly, I think it goes beyond -- you
- 8 know, if we are agreeing to let the experts --
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Oh, this is premature. That
- should be an argument addressed to his -- to Mr. Turro's
- 11 statement and his competence to make certain assertions, and
- it's premature to ge to get into that here.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: All right.
- 14 JUDGE STEINBERG: All we are talking about is who
- 15 can see what. And if that stuff is excluded, then it's
- 16 moot. If it's not excluded, it's not moot, and Mr. Naftalin
- 17 saying show it to your experts. Show it to Mr. La Follette
- and Mr. Cohen. And I'm happy with that.
- 19 MR. ARONOWITZ: Well, to some degree, and I put
- this out here, to some degree, you know, we are relying on
- 21 Loginow as an expert and what he saw and what, you know he
- 22 heard.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Show it to Loginow.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Okay.
- 25 MR. NAFTALIN: Well, now, wait a minute.

1	JUDGE STEINBERG: Why not?
2	MR. NAFTALIN: Let me address that just a little
3	bit.
4	JUDGE STEINBERG: I'll tell you, if the Bureau
5	doesn't ask Mr. Loginow the questions about I mean, what
6	I was prepared to do was sit here, open up your Exhibit 1,
7	you know, now and just read what Mr. Turro had to say and
8	say to Mr. Loginow, "From your experience, is this accurate?
9	Is this reasonable?" I mean, Mr. Loginow can say he can
10	sit here, and I would presume that you would ask him in his
11	deposition. Mr. Loginow would say, "Gee, yeah, that makes a
12	lot of sense. And if that's really what happened, then
13	maybe my test didn't show what I said it showed."
14	Or Mr. Loginow could say, "Hello, no, this is
15	absolutely wrong. It's engineering garbage. It's gobbly-
16	gook. I'm an expert, you know, an electrical engineer, and
17	have been doing this for 30 years or 20 years, and this is
18	absolutely wrong."
19	I mean, I don't see what's wrong with showing Mr.
20	Loginow anything technical or anything having to do with his
21	inspection and saying, "Look, this is what Turro says. Is
22	it accurate? Is it true? Would this have affected your
23	results?" Because if they don't ask it, I'm going to ask
24	it. I think it would shorten things up a little bit.
25	I would say I would go as far as to say

- 1 have you shown this to him yet?
- 2 MR. ARONOWITZ: No.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay. I would go so far as to
- 4 say wait until after the deposition so that if you ask him
- 5 this question at the deposition and he answers one way and
- 6 he comes into the hearing and answers another way, then he
- 7 would have to explain. But, you know, that's as far as I
- 8 think that you can reasonably go.
- Now, his explanation would be, "Well, gee, it came
- to me cold at the deposition, but I've been thinking about
- 11 it. I've been talking about it. I did a little bit of
- 12 research on it. And I was wrong at my deposition." I mean,
- 13 that happens all the time.
- 14 But I would say that's not unreasonable to show
- this stuff to Mr. Loginow. Then Mr. Luna and Mr. Gaghan,
- 16 that's something different.
- MR. NAFTALIN: Okay. All right, I'm persuaded,
- 18 Your Honor. Okay, that's fine.
- 19 JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, does that satisfy --
- MR. ARONOWITZ: If I understand it, the proposal
- 21 would be that Jules Cohen, Wilson La Follette, and Surge
- 22 Loginow would be able to review Mr. Turro's statement.
- 23 That's our Exhibit No. 1, right?
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Right.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Correct.

- JUDGE STEINBERG: I mean, obviously, they would
- be, you know, they would be reviewing it for whatever
- 3 engineering statements.
- 4 MR. ARONOWITZ: That's fine. We don't object to
- 5 that.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: But I agree with -- I think Mr.
- 7 Luna and Mr. Gaghan should come in cold.
- 8 MR. NAFTALIN: Okay.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: And be confronted on the witness
- stand with the stuff you're going to confront them with.
- MR. NAFTALIN: They were our primary concern,
- 12 anyway.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: And that's -- absolutely no
- 14 objection on --
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Yes.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Absolutely no objection in that
- 17 regard.
- MR. NAFTALIN: I think we are in agreement.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: So everybody is happy with --
- 20 okay, what I will do is I will just issue a brief order
- 21 basically saying that we discussed it at the admissions
- 22 session and it's granted to the extent reflected on the
- 23 record and denied in all other respects, and I will dismiss
- 24 the joint -- I mean, the emergency motion as moot.
- MR. NAFTALIN: That's fine.

- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, everybody ready to get to
- 2 the nitty-gritty?
- MR. NAFTALIN: Ready, Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay. So I guess since the
- 5 Bureau has got the burdens, burden of proceeding with
- 6 respect to Mr. Turro and both burdens with respect to
- 7 Monticello Mountaintop, I will take -- consider their
- 8 exhibits first.
- 9 MR. ARONOWITZ: Before we start that, Your Honor,
- we have tabbed our exhibits MMB Exhibit 1.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Right.
- 12 MR. ARONOWITZ: MMB Exhibit 2. I think it should
- be noted that this -- that in order to expedite this we
- 14 submitted joint exhibits.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Right.
- 16 MR. ARONOWITZ: So I will continue to refer to
- 17 them as MMB exhibits, but they are really joint exhibits of
- 18 Universal and MMB.
- 19 JUDGE STEINBERG: Right.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Is that satisfactory to everybody.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: It's just a lot easier that way.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Just trying to do our best in that
- 23 regard.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: While I am thinking about it,
- let me just state for the record that many of the exhibits

- 1 are copies of pleadings, letters, and similar things which
- 2 have been filed with the Commission. Some of those have
- attachments, and the attachments, such as engineering
- 4 statements and other statements.
- 5 To the extent that those Bureau exhibits are
- 6 received, let me just say they are going to be received for
- official notice purposes. In other words, if a Bureau
- 8 exhibit has an engineering statement attached to it or
- 9 another statement, the engineering statement or the other
- 10 statements are not going to be received for the purposes of
- 11 proving the truth of the matters asserted.
- 12 Let's take an engineering statement. You are not
- going to be able to cite to that engineering statement as
- 14 proof of the facts contained therein. The only thing it can
- 15 be used for would be on such and such a date so and so filed
- 16 a pleading. Attached to the pleading was this. The
- 17 pleading said blank. Or attached was an engineering
- statement from so and so. The engineering statement said
- 19 blank. That's not proof of blank. All that is is proof is
- 20 that something was filed on that date attached to that
- 21 pleading.
- If you want that engineering statement accepted
- for the purposes of the truth of the matters asserted, you
- 24 are going to have to produced the witness, and that witness
- is going to have sponsor it, you know, vouch for it and be

- 1 subject to cross examination.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Your Honor, in some of those case,
- and this is just to clarify, so I understand what you are
- 4 saying. In some of these cases we have an engineer who
- 5 says, for example, attached are a bunch of things and I
- 6 reaffirm those.
- 7 JUDGE STEINBERG: That's fine.
- 8 MR. ARONOWITZ: Okay.
- 9 JUDGE STEINBERG: Yes, that's fine --
- 10 MR. ARONOWITZ: Okay.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: -- because he is a witness, he
- has vouched for it, and he will be available for cross-
- 13 examination.
- 14 But what I am saying is, is that the witness --
- somebody has got to sponsor it, and somebody has got to be
- 16 made available for cross-examination to sponsor -- before
- 17 you can use any of those documents to prove the truth of
- 18 something stated in the document.
- Okay, I just wanted to clarify so that everybody
- 20 right at the beginning knew what their obligations were.
- 21 (Pause.)
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Let me then turn to Mr.
- 23 Aronowitz and you can do your thing.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: Okay. Your Honor, we have
- exchanged our exhibits, so I would say we get right down to

1	it.
2	I identified for the record Mass Media Bureau
3	Exhibit 1, which is a 31-page exhibit, which is a summary of
4	past proceedings for which official notice can be taken and
5	a copy of those pleadings as attachments.
6	JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, the document described
7	will be marked for identification as Mass Media Bureau
8	Exhibit No. 1.
9	(The document referred to was
10	marked for identification as
11	Mass Media Bureau Exhibit No.
12	2.)
13	JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, any objections?
14	MR. NAFTALIN: We both object, I think.
15	JUDGE STEINBERG: Mr. Riley?
16	MR. RILEY: Your Honor, I don't have any problem
17	with Exhibit 1's attachments A through D, but the text that
18	precedes those is not, I think, either necessary or
19	appropriate in the record. If the text is based on the
20	documents A through D, then
21	JUDGE STEINBERG: No, certain up through
22	okay, the documents start on page 2 of No. 1. You see 1991
23	declaratory ruling?
24	MR. RILEY: What it

JUDGE STEINBERG: Yes, that's where the document

25

- 1 starts. So that the program origination for -- where it
- 2 says, "Program origination for W276AQ consistently denied,"
- 3 I don't think that section is covered by documents in the
- 4 attachments.
- MR. RILEY: Well, Your Honor, I think that's true,
- and let me restate my position.
- 7 JUDGE STEINBERG: Yes.
- 8 MR. RILEY: As the Bureau has paginated the
- 9 exhibit, I think that pages 1 through 4 are objectionable.
- 10 JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay.
- MR. RILEY: And then beginning with page 5 within
- 12 this exhibit, which is Attachment A, through page 20 --
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Right, to the end.
- 14 MR. RILEY: Now I'm trying to -- well, what I want
- to do is get through a point, through what is page 19 of the
- exhibit, which is the end of Attachment D.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Oh, I see.
- MR. RILEY: I don't have an objection to inclusion
- of those. I think they are properly in for official notice.
- 20 Beginning at page 20, they go to a matter which maybe
- appropriately in the record that is something like Mr.
- 22 Naftalin might speak to, but I don't take a position on
- 23 Attachment E, Your Honor.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay.
- MR. RILEY: The reason for my objection to pages 1

- through 4, either they are counsel's summary of what they
- think the documents or properly citeable rulings stand for,
- 3 or -- which is what I believe they are, or they are an
- 4 attempt to put into the record counsel's proposed findings
- and conclusions in a handy way to cite to them, and I don't
- 6 think that's an appropriate exercise in the exhibits, so I
- 7 think they are objectionable on that basis.
- 8 JUDGE STEINBERG: Mr. Naftalin?
- 9 MR. ARONOWITZ: With respect to pages 1 through 4,
- 10 Your Honor, we agree that these appear to -- these page
- appear to be a legal argument about the factor, or the
- 12 statements, or the representations of Commission decision.
- 13 If the decisions themselves to be submitted in the record,
- we don't object to them. They say what they say and they
- 15 stand for what they stand for. Counsel's characterization
- of them are properly evidenced. They are not certified or
- 17 substantiated as evidence, and we believe that this is an
- inappropriate time to be making legal argument, and legal
- 19 argument should never be considered an exhibit as an
- 20 evidentiary matter.
- We don't object to A, B, anyway, the pages
- through, the Bates stamp numbering through 19 to be
- 23 submitted as documentary matters. In fact, I think we
- 24 proposed some of those ourselves. Starting with Attachment
- 25 E, which actually begins on Bates stamp number 21, the

- 1 Bureau has proposed to include an assignment of license --
- 2 I'm sorry, a purchase agreement which was part of an
- assignment of license application and option amendment to
- 4 that purchase agreement, I should say, with respect to two
- of Mr. Turro's stations. That matter, I believe the hearing
- 6 designation order held that assignment application in
- 7 abeyance subject to the outcome of this proceeding. So
- 8 since there is not an issue about it in this proceeding, I
- 9 would suggest that that be excluded as well.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay, Mr. Aronowitz or Mr.
- 11 Helmick or --
- MR. ARONOWITZ: I have been designated to say
- 13 nothing.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: By the way, when I say Mr.
- Aronowitz, I am including Mr. Helmick, since they are joint
- exhibits, and you can both argue if you want to.
- MR. ARONOWITZ: I don't think we want to arque
- 18 this.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Okay. pages 1 through 4 are not
- 20 received into evidence. They are rejected. Pages 5 through
- 21 19, is it, or C?
- MR. ARONOWITZ: That's correct.
- JUDGE STEINBERG: Pages 1 through 4 are rejected.
- Pages 5 through 19 are received. Pages 20 through 31 are
- 25 rejected.